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REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

Letter dated 14 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan", for consideration in plenary.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the explanatory memorandum distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The 14 years of war in Afghanistan resulting from the Communist takeover and subsequent Soviet armed aggression of 1979 finally ended on 29 April 1992. And now an Islamic State that reflects the will and aspirations of the Afghan people is established in the country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan came to power in a country which was rendered physically devastated, pyschologically battered, economically depleted and politically and socially disintegrated. The country, therefore, is in a serious need of financial, economic and humanitarian relief assistance.

The inadequacy of financial and economic resources, which is directly related to political stability, is seriously hampering every initiative of the Islamic State which is being taken for the purpose of further consolidation of peace, tranquillity and political stability.

The Special United Nations Representative on Afghanistan recently expressed dismay at the lack of enthusiasm from the international community in responding urgently to meet the $180 million target proposed by His Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as emergency assistance in his appeal on 5 June 1992. So far, almost $40.5 million has been received in response to that appeal. Some countries did respond positively, which has been appreciated by the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Owing to this lack of adequate international attention, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is seizing the forthcoming regular session of the United Nations General Assembly as an opportunity to explain to the international community the problems regarding the lack of resources needed for reconstruction and emergency relief assistance. The forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly will serve also as an occasion to present the magnitude and the scope of the destruction in every sphere of life of the nation.

To this end, the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is proposing, on the basis of rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of a supplementary item, entitled "Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the Assembly, and, on the basis of rule 20 of the said rules of procedure, submits this explanatory memorandum.

To enable the international community to have a better picture of the actual magnitude and dimensions of the destruction, the authorities will have an opportunity to convene during the forthcoming debate on the said item an exhibition using the available audio-video materials, which will portray different repercussions of the 14 years of war to the international community.

The Member States are aware that, within the emergency relief assistance programme regarding the repatriation of refugees, the United Nations apportions $132.00 for each returnee. This amount is adequate to enable a refugee to return, but not enough for sustenance purposes.

As it is already clear from the destructive nature of war, the refugees, while returning home, will face nothing but open deserts and the expected harsh realities of winter. For the most part, safety zones or survival shelters are obliterated throughout the country. As a land-locked country, Afghanistan, whose meagre resources are dependent mostly on agricultural products, is left with almost no cultivatable land. At present, there exists no budget to provide grain or any other seeds for what is often termed as agricultural infrastructure.

In the meantime, it should be pointed out that most of the country's cultivatable areas have been seriously affected by Napalms and land-mines. Aside from this, the Mujahiddin (holy warriors) had very little time, for they were all engaged in a national uprising against the occupation of their country. Additionally, factories, electric dams, bridges, highways and transportation infrastructure, as the backbone of the country's economic lifeline, were virtually destroyed. Most importantly, commerce has come to a complete halt nation-wide, and the inflation skyrocketed accordingly.

To enable the Islamic State of Afghanistan to reconstruct this war-torn country, one of the poorest among the least developed countries, requires assistance and resources from the international community.

The forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, which is considered the highest platform of this world family, is the only source where the needy nation of Afghanistan as a peace-loving nation could make its overtures for international assistance for its reconstruction and economic and social rehabilitation.

It is the General Assembly that could appreciate the enormous sacrifices of over 1 million Afghans for the maintenance of world peace and justice. Therefore, it is the moral obligation on the part of the General Assembly to help rebuild Afghanistan, with the cooperation of the international community, so that this long-suffering nation could be enabled to enjoy, as all other nations, peace, prosperity and the rule of law.

The Islamic State is hopeful that the international community, just as they have extended their wide support during Afghanistan's 14 years of war to restore its political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, will continue to support the second phase of its struggle which is to rebuild the war-torn country.

Support of this item by all those who believe in freedom, justice, human rights and the dignity of man is expected and appreciated.